

November 29, 2004

Voyageur Media Group, Inc.

*Ohio Archaeology* art

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Artwork images: [www.voyageurmedia.org/newsroom](http://www.voyageurmedia.org/newsroom)

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## The "Ancient Ohio" Art Series Brings State's Past to Life

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. and the Ohio Historical Society have completed the "Ancient Ohio" art series, a collection of six, 4'x3' acrylic artworks depicting American Indian lifeway scenes from each of Ohio's prehistoric archaeological periods. The art series, funded by a grant from the Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation, is one of four components of the *Ohio Archeology* project, a collaborative media initiative among scholars and educators from dozens of regional institutions.

The "Ancient Ohio" art series was painted by Susan Walton, SA Walton Studios, Florida, who was awarded the commission by the project's Art Advisory Committee. Ms. Walton has created numerous works on anthropological and natural subjects, including "lifeway" murals at Cahokia Mounds State Memorial in Illinois, Wickliffe Mounds Research Center in Kentucky and the Chippewa Nature Center in Michigan. "Our goal was to fill the void of quality artists' renderings depicting the diverse lifeways of American Indians in prehistoric Ohio," says Tom Law, Project Director, *Ohio Archaeology*, Voyageur Media Group, Inc.

The "Ancient Ohio" art series captures a broad range of time periods, geographic settings, seasons, settlements and activities. The development of the artwork was supervised by Martha Potter Otto, Curator of Archaeology, Ohio Historical Society. "Flint tools and pottery fragments help us understand details of the lives of precontact American Indians in Ohio," says Martha Otto. "However, sometimes it is harder to visualize their overall lifestyles - the forest rather than the trees. The "Ancient Ohio" art series, based on the latest archaeological research, is designed to present cohesive views of the various precontact cultures that portray their activities, communities, and their relationships to their natural surroundings." Otto and Walton conducted field research at numerous sites and museums, working with archaeological specialists on the development of concepts, settings, seasons and elements for each panel. The entire art series covers over 12,000 years of prehistory in six works depicting lifeway scenes from each of Ohio's major archaeological periods: "The Paleoindian Period," "The Archaic Period," "The Early Woodland Period," "The Middle Woodland Period," "The Late Woodland Period" and "The Late Prehistoric Period."

The "Ancient Ohio" art series is available to viewers, teachers, and students through various project components. Low-resolution images (72 dpi with captions) may be downloaded from Voyageur's website [www.voyageurmedia.org/ohioarchaeology](http://www.voyageurmedia.org/ohioarchaeology) for personal, research and educational purposes. High-resolution images of the artwork may be ordered on-line from the Ohio Historical Society's Collections, Historic Preservation and Statewide Outreach Division at [www.ohiohistory.org/resource/audiovis/photodup](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/audiovis/photodup), or by contacting the audiovisual staff at (614) 297-2543 or [audiovisual@ohiohistory.org](mailto:audiovisual@ohiohistory.org). The artwork is featured in *Ohio Archaeology*, a 300-page, fully illustrated, coffee table-style book released by Voyageur and publisher Orange Frazer Press [www.orangefrazer.com](http://www.orangefrazer.com) in the fall of 2004. The "Ancient Ohio" art series will also be integrated into the *Ohio Archaeology* documentary, a three-hour, mini series targeted for release to Ohio's public television stations and schools (via OET) in the winter of 2005.

Funding for the "Ancient Ohio" art series provided by:

**The Wohlgemuth Herschede Foundation**